

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 1731

In re

Patent Application of

Michael J. Bricco, et al.

Application No. 10/646,367

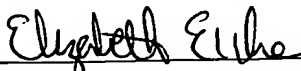
Confirmation No.: 8650

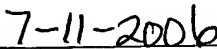
Filed: August 22, 2003

Examiner: Eric J. Hug

"METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
FORMING A PAPER OR TISSUE WEB"

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Signature

  
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**COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following comments are submitted in response to the April 11, 2006 Notice of Allowance issued in the above-referenced patent application.

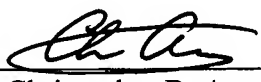
In the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner provides reasons for the allowance of claims 1-21, 27-36, and 38-45. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Reasons for Allowance do not accurately characterize the allowed claims, and do not set forth all of the reasons why the claims of the present application are allowable.

In the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner paraphrases the majority of independent claims 1 and 27 of the present application. However, this paraphrased description of claims 1 and 27 mischaracterizes some of the claimed elements and features. For example, claim 1 calls for "the vibrational element having a surface *substantially* facing the wire" (emphasis added) rather than "a

surface facing the wire” as set forth in the Reasons for Allowance. As another example, claim 1 calls for “*at least one* vibration-inducing mechanism” and “*at least one* dampener” (emphasis added) rather than one vibration-inducing mechanism and one dampener as inferred in the Reasons for Allowance. As yet another example, claim 27 calls for “first and second supports coupled to and driven by . . . first and second vibration-inducing mechanisms, *respectively*” (emphasis added) rather than “first and second supports of the vibrational head . . . coupled to and driven by first and second vibration-inducing mechanisms”. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-21, 27-36, and 38-45 are allowable based upon the combination of elements and features claimed in claims 1-21, 27-36, and 38-45, rather than upon the characterization of claims 1 and 27 set forth in the Reasons for Allowance.

Furthermore, each of claims 1-21, 27-36, and 38-45 include other elements, features, and combinations of elements and features that patentably distinguish the claims from the prior art. The Applicant respectfully submit that each of claims 1-21, 27-36, and 38-45 are separately patentable based upon the combinations of features and elements (and relationships thereof) claimed in claims 1-21, 27-36, and 38-45 rather than upon any one feature, element, sub-combination of features and/or elements, or operational description as indicated in the Reasons for Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Christopher B. Austin  
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SUBMISSION OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
ATTENTION: Official Draftsperson  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed for filing are the replacement formal drawings for the above-identified application. Although not requested by the Office, entry of the replacement drawings is respectfully requested. The enclosed replacement drawings should be used for printing in the patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher B. Austin  
Reg. No. 41,592

File No. 093395-9005-00  
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I, Elizabeth Eiche, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date of my signature.

Signature

7-11-2006

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